

Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 ISO-00 CG-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03

SS-20 USIA-15 CEQ-02 COA-02 COME-00 EB-11 EPA-04

IO-14 NSF-04 SCI-06 FEA-02 ACDA-19 AEC-11 AGR-20

DOT-00 FMC-04 INT-08 JUSE-00 OMB-01 DRC-01 /206 W

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C O N F I D E N T I A L BUENOS AIRES 2778

FOR D/LOS AND COA

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PBOR, AR

SUBJ: LOS: MARINE SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH (MSR)

REF: A. STATE A-1715; B. BA 2552

1. SUMMARY: DEMARCHE MADE TO REPRESENTATIVES OF CONICET OCEANOGRAPHIC COMMITTEE ON BEHALF OF US POSITION ON MSR. GENERAL SYMPATHY EXPRESSED FOR MAX. FREEDOM POSSIBLE FOR MSR. ARGENTINE 1973 LAW WILL BE KEY FACTOR IN GOA ATTITUDE, BUT FONOFF WILL HAVE SOME FLEXIBILITY IN ITS APPROACH, ACCORDING TO THE CONICET REPS. END SUMMARY.

2. FOLLOWING APPROACH MADE TO CAMINOS AND BASABE AS REPORTED PARA 3 REFTEL B. SCIATT MET WITH CAPT HORACIO CASAL, SECRETARY, AND ING. NESTOR W. LANFREDI, SCIENTIFIC SECRETARY, OF THE NATIONAL OCEANOGRAPHIC COMMITTEE OF THE NATIONAL RESEARCH COUNCIL (CONICET). (WE BELIEVE THIS COMMITTEE TO HAVE SOME INFLUENCE
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WITHIN GOA AND TO BE REPRESENTATIVE OF ARGENTINES

INTERESTED IN MSR. APPROACHES ALSO PLANNED HOWEVER
TO NAVY HYDROGRAPHIC OFFICE AND ANTARCTIC INSTITUTE.)
US POSITION EXPLAINED, AND COPIES OF US DRAFT
ARTICLES AND BACKGROUND PAPER ON MSR GIVEN TO CASAL AND
LANFREDI.

3. LANFREDI INDICATED THAT HE PERSONALLY AND HE THOUGHT
ARGENTINE OCEANOGRAPHIC COMMUNITY IN GENERAL FAVORED
MAXIMUM LIBERTY FOR MSR. HE AND CASAL BOTH REFERRED TO
1973 ARGENTINE LAW ON MSR AND IMPLIED IT WORKING FAIRLY
WELL CITING RECENT CASE OF LAMONT DOHERTY VESSEL
"VEMA". CASAL AND LANFREDI MADE CLEAR THAT MSR, AS
OTHER LOS MATTERS, WAS PRIMARILY IN HANDS OF FONOFF
FOR THE POLITICAL DECISIONS. THEY INDICATED THEY
THOUGHT FONOFF HAD SOME FLEXIBILITY IN ITS APPROACH,
E.G. ON THE EXTENT OF THE ZONES, AND EVEN THAT IT MIGHT
GO ALONG WITH A NARROWER ZONE FOR CONTROLLED MSR THAN
FOR ECONOMIC RESOURCES. (ARGENTINE LAW PROVIDES FOR
MANDATORY APPROVAL OF RESEARCH OUT TO A 200 METER
DEPTH).

4. EMBASSY IS TRANSLATING TEXT OF MAY 1973 ARGENTINE
DECREE-LAW AND REGULATIONS ON THIS SUBJECT AND WILL
TRANSMIT SOONEST BY AIRGRAM. COPIES WILL BE AVAILABLE
FOR LOS TEAM WHEN IT VISITS HERE.

5. DEPT MAY WISH FOR BACKGROUND QUERY LAMONT DOHERTY
(COLUMBIA U.) PERSONNEL RE THEIR VIEW OF RECENT
EXPERIENCE IN CONDUCTING GEOPHYSICAL RESEARCH UNDER
1973 LAW IN WATERS OVER CONTINENTAL SHELF
WHERE IT QUITE POSSIBLE THERE EXIST SIGNIFICANT
PETROLEUM RESOURCES. (THIS WOULD HAVE BEEN MOST SENSITIVE
OF RESEARCH TO GOA AND ILLUSTRATES REAL DIFFICULTY IN
SEPARATING "PURE" RESEARCH FROM THAT WHICH CONCERNS
RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT).
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